Politics

Is rape and sexual assault a part of IDF's ideology or do they oppose it? [closed]

Asked 2 years, 2 months ago Modified 7 days ago Viewed 929 times

-5

This post is hidden. It was deleted 5 days ago by Joe W, Just Me, Giter.

Closed. This question is off-topic. It is not currently accepting answers.

The primary purpose of this question appears to be to promote or discredit a specific political cause, group or politician. It does not appear to be a good-faith effort to learn more about governments, policies and political processes as defined in the help center.

Closed last month by Adam Musch, haxor789, Timur Shtatland, user111403, Toffomat.

(List of close voters is only viewable by users with the close/reopen votes privilege)

Edit question

There is mounting evidence of sexual violence carried out by the Israeli Defence Force against Palestinian women and children. Evidence points to the violence being perpetrated both pre- and post-October the 7th, and both in Gaza and the West Bank. In relation to the ongoing assault on Gaza, the UN has release a report expressing concern that Palestinian women have been raped and threatened with sexual assault.

Regarding pre-October the 7th, there are many similarly shocking reports. A 15 year old boy reported:

> The boy said that the same individual [an IDF soldier] “knocked him to the floor while blindfolded and raped him with an object,” according to DCIP. The individual threatened to continue with the sexual violence until the boy confessed.

A B'tselem report details many instances of Palestinian detainees being threatened with rape and sexual assault. There is the case of an IDF soldier who raped a Palestinian woman who needed a permit to work in Israel. There are many other references and examples. I have added some of them at the end to avoid making this question too long.

Given this body of proof, is there any evidence that this a policy by the IDF to terrorise the Palestinian population, or are these the actions of rogue members of the Israeli Defence

Force? There is some evidence for the former, given that chief rabbi of the IDF, Eyal Krim, has suggested that rape of gentiles during war is permitted. I am wondering whether there is any stronger evidence?

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/idf-sexual-abuse-palestine-gaza-b2498888.html

https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/war-gaza-un-experts-appalled-reports-rape-and-sexual-assault-palestinian-women-and-girls

israel 2023-israel-hamas-war war-crime Edit tags

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asked Feb 23, 2024 at 21:13

Ben Cohen
4,127 1 13 49

8 Before anyone states that this should be closed as a 'push' question, let me note that we have a similar question about the Hamas which a mod left open. The main difference between this question and that, is that my question is far better referenced. – Ben Cohen Feb 23, 2024 at 21:18

4 I'm not sure what's the point to this Q. The official answer of the IDF is going to be self-evident. Less officially, see Italian Philosophers comment to the other Q: "how likely are we to hear info from credible, unbiased sources?" And yeah, one can always find some--perhaps high-up--official who is going to says something that resembles collective punishment, but you know "terrorise" is going to argued 5-ways-to-heaven as maybe not being exactly the same thing. Etc. – what number you wanted Feb 23, 2024 at 22:10

5 The link you posted already answers the question. It's a push question because you clearly are not interested in finding anything out. The link already says that the IDF soldier is in prison for rape. That answers the question. – There are 4 lights Feb 25, 2024 at 14:51

12 @BenCohen Deny it all you want, but it's clear evidence that this is a push question. – There are 4 lights Feb 26, 2024 at 1:11

4 The best form of whataboutism would be to be up front about it. Pretending this question isn't such a thing is intellectually dishonest. What about ism isn't a great thing however you dress it, though. – bharring Feb 26, 2024 at 19:21

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3 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)

7

This answer is hidden. This answer was deleted 5 days ago along with its parent question.

While there are widespread reports of some sexual assaults by the IDF, there has been no reports of widespread policy of or support for such assaults.

The IDF has a history of prosecuting sexual assaults. While there are likely cases that haven't been prosecuted, this does make it clear the IDF as an organization opposes sexual assault.

As for a public statement, “Israel remains ready to investigate any concrete claims of misconduct by its security forces when presented with credible allegations and evidence.” - https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.cnn.com/cnn/2024/02/20/middleeast/israel-hamas-un-investigation-sexual-abuse-intl/index.html

IDF forces regularly have civilian Palestinians under their power. In the vast majority of cases, no sexual assault is claimed.

There appears to be serious problems, with crimes happening. I wish the IDF would do more. That doesn't make the situation comparable to Oct 7.

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answered Feb 26, 2024 at 14:00

bharring

2,248 5 18

1 From the article you linked though, the case doesn't seem that strong "Even in the few cases in which testimonies were collected about sexual offenses committed on October 7, police failed to connect the acts with the victims who were harmed by them." I get it though that many of the suspected victims are probably dead. – what number you wanted Feb 26, 2024 at 20:12

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2

This answer is hidden. This answer was deleted 5 days ago along with its parent question.

Israel is a "military" state - almost every citizen is compulsorily required to serve in the military. The IDF being a professional military in Israel's "democracy", thus implies that all actions of the IDF is based on the State's political ideology and agenda.

Yes, ample evidence exists to show that torture (including rape and sexual assault) of Palestinians is now indeed an **unwritten, state-sanctioned policy** of Israel (and its strongest advocates are the Israeli-right polity).

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (*a Geneva based non-profit organisation on human rights*) has published a report on the increasing level of sexual violence of detained Palestinians, post the October 7th attack, and details how this has been institutionalised in Israel's detention and prison systems, the Israeli judiciary and even in Israel's healthcare system:

> **Euro-Med Monitor** *(Apr 2026)*: ... The 7th of October 2023 marked a moment of “great security breakdown” that gave Israeli security forces a “blank cheque” to bypass previous restrictions and remove the remaining formal legal protections for Palestinian prisoners and detainees, particularly those from the Gaza Strip ... Laws

like the “Unlawful Combatants Law” and others were used to remove procedural protections. Combined with enforced disappearances, this created a system that enabled ongoing torture, sexual violence, and other abuses against Palestinians.

This report details widespread patterns of sexual violence against detainees in the Gaza Strip, serving as a tool to break both individual and collective will and inflict serious physical and psychological harm. The documented practices involved direct sexual assault, assaults with instruments, and torture focused on the genitals. They also included organised displays like filming and the collective presence of security personnel during the assaults, which strengthens the evidence of these crimes being institutional and systematic.

In a troubling parallel, the report uncovers the Israeli medical system’s role in militarising medicine, with certain medical personnel shifting from caregivers to facilitators of torture’s legitimisation and continuation. This extends beyond denying life-saving treatment or participation in painful medical procedures without adequate anaesthesia or pain relief. It also includes issuing certificates of “fit for interrogation,” hiding torture injuries in medical records, and forcing detainees to cooperate with interrogators to get treatment. This pattern is further supported by documentation practices that obscure the perpetrator’s identity and hide doctors’ details, making it difficult to trace, preserve evidence, and hold individuals accountable.

... The Israeli judicial system’s response extended beyond obstructing accountability. It showed signs of undermining evidence by restricting victims, as complainants and witnesses, from participating in proceedings and reclassifying serious incidents as minor offences or misdemeanours, ultimately culminating in the dismissal of charges in one of the most serious documented cases, despite their reliance on substantial medical and visual evidence. These facts collectively indicate an institutional reluctance to ensure effective accountability ... From an international law standpoint, the widespread acts of torture and sexual violence, considering the broader context of the attack and related policies, violate the Genocide Convention.

The data also uncovers institutional collusion and enablement, including the roles of regulatory, supervisory, and judicial bodies that helped perpetuate violations or hindered their documentation and the accountability of those responsible ... Thus, responsibility for these crimes goes beyond the direct perpetrators, encompassing leadership and institutions that sheltered them. Medical and legal personnel who cover up evidence and legitimise sexual violence and torture commit acts of ‘aiding and abetting,’ requiring international accountability.

... Since the beginning of the Israeli aggression on Gaza on 7 October 2023, Israeli forces have conducted extensive, arbitrary arrests of thousands of Palestinians, including healthcare workers, journalists, women, and children. These arrests involved raiding shelters, hospitals, and corridors that the Israeli army designated as “safe.” ... Once transferred to detention and interrogation centres, prisoners

> and detainees encounter a system that functions as state-run torture camps, where they face severe violations that include systematic sexual violence as a means of subjugation and destruction. Based on corroborating testimonies supporting this report, these violations extend beyond sexual harassment to include rape, rape with objects, the use of police dogs in sexual assaults, and ongoing forced nudity.

The *Norwegian Refugee Council* has also published a report highlighting how gender-based and sexualised violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West bank are deliberately ignored by the Israeli forces even if it happens in their presence:

> NRC *(Apr 2026)*: **SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND FORCIBLE TRANSFER IN THE WEST BANK**
>
> ... More than 70% of displaced households identified threats to women and children, particularly sexualised violence, as the decisive reason for leaving ... Participants described escalating conduct, including threats of rape, indecent exposure and harassment primarily targeting women and children, while men and boys were subjected to sexualised violence and humiliation.
>
> ... Incidents repeatedly occur in the presence of Israeli forces without intervention or effective investigation, reinforcing coercive conditions and reducing the practical ability of communities to remain in place.
>
> ... Participants described escalating patterns of sexual harassment in Area C, including sexualised insults and gestures, indecent exposure, intimidation, threats of sexual violence ... Participants in Ein al-Duyuk reported repeated incidents in which settlers attempted to touch women's bodies while driving tractors close to homes and cultivated areas. Participants in Al-Baqa'a described a settler walking naked between Bedouin shelters shortly before the community fled overnight ... Participants in multiple locations described settlers exposing themselves, making threats of rape, and stalking women as they walked to latrines.
>
> Men and boys also experience sexualised humiliation, forced nudity and sexualised threats. In Wadi al-Seeq, after the community was forcibly displaced, three men reported that settlers detained them and attempted to sexually assault one man with a broomstick while he was blindfolded. They described forced stripping, beatings, burning and being urinated on, and said perpetrators circulated images of the abuse.
>
> ... Participants described armed settlers increasingly targeting women and children, including in incidents timed for moments when men were absent.

Thus, despite what Israeli government or IDF spokesperson publicly claim, the political actions of denial, farcical investigation and trial speak for itself and reveal what they attempt to hide or lie about. There is overwhelming evidence, not just of decades of documented cases of such abuses by the IDF but also of the Israeli-right supporting and

publicly advocating for, such kind of humiliation, rape and torture of Palestinians to "break their morale".

A very recent and public case is where charges against IDF soldiers, *caught on camera, sodomising Palestinian prisoners* was completely dropped by the Netanyahu regime:

> **RT** *(Mar 2026)*: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Thursday that prosecutors had withdrawn the indictment ... On Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the decision, stating that *"Israel must pursue its enemies, not its heroic fighters."* Defense Minister Israel Katz likewise said *"justice has been done."* Human rights groups, however, strongly criticized the decision. The **Public Committee Against Torture** in Israel accused the IDF of whitewashing the scandal, stating that ***"Israel's military advocate general just gave his soldiers license to rape ... so long as the victim is Palestinian."***

Prime Minister Netanyahu's right-wing regime went on to praise them as "heroes". ***Haaretz***, an Israeli newspaper acknowledged in an editorial that this action implicitly conveys to IDF soldiers that they can 'Rampage, Assault and Abuse' Palestinians without fear of punishment.

In 2022, an Israeli NGO, **Public Committee Against Torture** referred its own country to the *International Criminal Court* for the war crime of torture and abuse of Palestinians:

> **MEE** *(June 2022)*: An Israeli anti-torture body has referred its own country to the International Criminal Court (ICC) after concluding that Israel is "not interested and unable to stop the use of torture against Palestinians" ... It said that **after 30 years of fighting torture it had "reached the unfortunate conclusion" that Israel has no wish to end torture**, honestly investigate victims' complaints and prosecute those responsible.
>
> The PCATI noted that **over 1,300 complaints of torture victims had been filed** with Israeli law enforcement authorities between 2001 and 2021 in the belief that the system will fulfil its duty, conduct fair and exhaustive investigations and do justice to the victims. However, the group said, that **led to zero indictments and just two criminal investigations** - including in cases where "unequivocal evidence of serious violations of the law" has been collected.

Note that Palestinians are only tried in Israeli military courts and remain in prison till their trial is over. Many are regularly arrested, some are never even charged, and they languish in prison for months or years facing various degrees of abuse and torture (including sexual humiliation and rape) even as they await the end of their proceedings.

References:

1. "Another genocide behind walls": Sexual violence in Israeli prisons and detention centres and engineered impunity (October 2023 - October 2025)

2. NRC Report: Sexual violence and forcible transfer in the West Bank *(PDF)*
3. BREAKING: IDF drops charges of Israeli soldiers caught on video raping Palestinian
4. Israel minister calls for 'ways more painful than death' for Palestinians
5. IDF drops charges against soldiers accused of sexually assaulting Palestinian detainee
6. Israeli anti-torture body refers Israel to International Criminal Court
7. Sexual and gender-based violence against Palestinians during the Gaza war
8. New reports confirm months of Israeli torture, abuse, and sexual violence against Palestinian prisoners
9. Torture and Abuse in Interrogation

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sfxedit
18.6k 2 42 102

The question is about the IDF, yet the answer talks about the policies of a different group, the "Israeli-right"? – uberhaxed Mar 13 at 22:20

The answer is a wild mix of strong assertions while paddling back saying they are "unwritten" and actions rather than proclaimed ideology (which is what the question asked about). @uberhaxed The "israeli-right" isn't one group, but the right wing parties of Israel that currently form the governing coalition (majority in parliament). Not 100% familiar with how that works, but usually the government/parliament has some say in the goals and ideology of the armed forces. – haxor789 Mar 14 at 11:47

@haxor789 I have updated my answer based on your criticisms to it. Ofcourse, it is an unwritten policy that can only be inferred by political actions - while many Israeli-right politicians publicly air their pleasure about the suffering and ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, and call for even more death and suffering, have you seen any IDF or government spokesperson acknowledging it publicly and officially? And note that settler violence is often outsourced by the IDF to fundamentalist Jews. Honestly, this is a depressing topic and that's why I didn't feel like writing a more detailed A – sfxedit Mar 14 at 17:25

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-1

This answer is hidden. This answer was deleted 5 days ago along with its parent question.

The answer to this is very similar to Did the Israeli government order or allow the IDF to attack civilians in the West Bank? Rape is a crime worldwide, so nobody is ever going to say "rape these Palestinians", and if they do, they won't ever admit it.

However, rape is nearly inevitable in war. It's been the case throughout history that soldiers rape non-combatants, even if there are orders against it. Check out what happened in 1945:

> An order issued on January 19, 1945 and signed by Stalin said:

> “Officers and men of the Red Army! We are entering the country of the enemy … the remaining population in the liberated areas, regardless of whether they're German, Czech, or Polish, should not be subjected to violence. The perpetrators will be punished according to the laws of war. In the liberated territories, sexual relations with females are not allowed. Perpetrators of violence and rape will be shot.”
>
> Yet estimates of rape by Soviet troops in Germany are placed in tens of thousands. The majority of the assaults were committed in the Soviet occupation zone.

You can read more about war rape, the laws against it (both human and relgious), and their ineffectiveness throughout history on Wiki.

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answered Mar 14 at 13:11

Allure
45.1k 18 137 252

2 It's not inevietable in war that civilians protest in favour of convicted soldier rapists. And there's a huge difference between soldiers disobeying orders and an (intentional or careless) policy of tolerance. – QuestionablePresence Mar 24 at 10:42

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